GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:92
ANSWERED ON:18.11.2002
CONTRIBUTION OF DEVELOPED NATIONS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the Rio Earth Summit 1992, an understanding was reached for securing sustainable development of the Globe whereby developed countries were expected to contribute 7.5 percent of their GDP for providing support for sustainable development of the developing countries;

(b) if so, whether the recent World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg took note of the contribution actually made by developed countries for sustainable development of the developing World during the decade;

(c) if so, whether as a result of the review, it has been noticed that not more than 3 percent of GDP has, on average, been contributed by the developed nations to this end;

(d) if so, whether any assurance for making good this shortfall has been given by developed nations;

(e) if so, the details in this regards; and

(f) the specific steps taken during 1992-2002 in India in the light of the Earth Summit declaration of 1992 and the contributions made by different developing nations in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a),(b),(c),(d)&(e) During the Rio Summit in 1992, developed countries reaffirmed their commitment to reach the accepted United Nations target of 0.7 per cent of GNP forODA for providing support to the developing countries. Lack of fulfillment of commitment on ODA has been the main stumbling block in international implementation of Agenda 21. It is a fact that overall ODA assistance has actually declined during the implementation period of Agenda 21. In 1992, the industrialised nations were providing an average of 0.35 percent of their GNP as ODA, which dropped to an average of 0.22 percent in 1997.The World Summit has recognized that a substantial increase in ODA and other resources will be required if developing countries are to achieve the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration. Developed Nations have been asked to make available the increased ODA commitments announced by them at the International Conference on Financing for Development and also towards

meeting the target of 0.7 percent of GNP as ODA to developing countries. India and other developing countries have been reiterating the need for developed countries to honour their commitments in this regard.

(f) Even prior to adoption of Agenda 21 and Rio Principles in 1992, India has various ongoing socio-economic programmes and schemes, which address the issue of sustainable development. The planning process in India reflects our concern for sustainable development and the various schemes undertaken address these issues. Various elements of Agenda 21 are under implementation by the concerned Ministries and Departments of Government of India and State Governments. Considerable progress has been made in the country during 1992-2002 to integrate environmental concerns in our developmental process.